Chapter Eight
Acuity

The Purpose of Acuity

The purpose of *Acuity* assessments is to provide diagnostic measures for grade 3-8 students in English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, Algebra I, and English 10. Assessment reports provide standards-aligned performance data, which support an educator's ability to inform instruction at the student-, class-, school-, and corporation-level. There are multiple types of assessments available in the online Acuity assessment system, including Predictive, Diagnostic, and Curriculum Map-Aligned.

Structure and Content of Acuity for 2012-2013

Testing personnel should note the following regarding the administration of the 2012-2013 Acuity Assessments:

1. Acuity assesses four content areas in grades 3-8: English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
2. First offered to corporations in 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 respectively, Acuity Algebra I predictive and English 10 assessments are also available. The Acuity Algebra I and English 10 assessments are each administered three times per year.
3. Three types of formative assessments may be administered in grades 3-8: Predictive, Diagnostic, and Curriculum-Mapped Aligned assessments.
4. Predictive assessments are designed to mirror the ISTEP+ blueprint. With each assessment window, more content from the current grade level is assessed. Predictive assessments are administered three times per year for English/language arts and mathematics (grades 3-8) and Algebra I; predictive assessments are administered two times per year for science and social studies.
5. Diagnostic assessments are structured to divide the curriculum over the course of a year into sections. For example, the mathematics diagnostic assessment is given four times per school year with different on-grade-level indicators assessed during each window. First offered to corporations in 2010-2011, the curriculum map-aligned (diagnostic) assessments are also available.
6. Acuity custom assessments can also be created by teachers to assess particular standards and indicators according to local curriculum maps / pacing guides.

Testing Accommodations

The approved ISTEP+ accommodations outlined in *Appendix C* apply to Acuity. The provision of these testing accommodations may be administered by classroom teachers in addition to program area staff (i.e., EL teacher). Teachers need to be made aware of each student's allowable accommodations. Additionally, a separate guidance document is available that addresses the test items that assess reading comprehension: http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/docs/Acuity_Assessment_Accommodations.pdf.

Application Process

The application process for schools to utilize the diagnostic tools takes place annually. The steps to complete this process include submission of the application, signoff by the corporation superintendent, and final verification of application information by the corporation.

Acuity Assessment Windows for 2012-2013

Window	Dates	Administration Type
Diagnostic	**D1:** 10/10 – 10/31 **D2:** 1/7 – 1/28 **D3:** 3/14 – 4/5 **D4:** 5/9 – 5/30	Online or Paper-and-Pencil
Predictive	**A** ELA/Math: 9/24 – 10/5 **B** ELA/Math: 11/26 – 12/7 **C** ELA/Math: 2/7 – 2/22 **B** SS/SCI: 12/3 – 12/14 **C** SS/SCI: 2/4 – 2/20	Online or Paper-and-Pencil
Algebra I Predictive	**A:** 11/5 – 11/19 **B:** 1/28 – 2/8 **C:** 3/25 – 4/12	Online or Paper-and-Pencil
English 10	**A:** 11/5 – 11/19 **B:** 1/28 – 2/8 **C:** 3/25 – 4/12	Online or Paper-and-Pencil

For additional information, please access http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/assessment.